



February 23, 2016
RE: Support HB 5344

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee –

Please accept this as my testimony for the public hearing held on 2/24/16. I fully support HB 5344, An Act Concerning Support for Animals that are Neglected or Treated Cruelly. This law would enable the appointment of an advocate to investigate and report on the custody and welfare of an animal that is the subject of a criminal court proceeding.

Through my work in Juvenile Court, as well as founding and running a national non-profit animal welfare organization, I have encountered far too many cases of animal cruelty and abuse. I purchased a property in Danbury, CT where an animal shelter was opened, and a place for children to volunteer with the animals. Many of these children have been abused and working with the animals is therapeutic for them. Sadly many of the animals rescued, came from abusive situations. As I am given the privilege to speak for these children in Court as their advocate, I encourage a law to advocate for the animals.

HB 5344 would help to facilitate animal law prosecutions by ensuring appropriate representation. It would act in the best interest of judicial economy to appoint an advocate for animals. I would gladly volunteer to be such an advocate in the Court system.

Thank you

Sincerely,

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